

**Rep. Joseph R. Pitts**  
**Opening Statement**  
**Energy and Commerce Full Committee**

**Markup of H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act; and**  
**H.R. 3527, the Poison Center Network Act**

**December 11, 2013**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Today, the Committee is marking up two public health bills that are important to keeping Americans healthy and safe:

- H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act, introduced by Rep. Pascrell; and
- H.R. 3527, the Poison Center Network Act, introduced by Rep. Terry.

These bills will help protect Americans against medical problems that have devastating consequences.

First, traumatic brain injury (TBI) affects children and adults, athletes and soldiers. More than 3.17 million Americans live with a disability that resulted from a TBI.

H.R. 1098 will provide needed services to help these patients. The prevention and surveillance work done at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) keeps the public and providers aware of TBI research that leads to early diagnosis and treatment.

Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) improves the understanding of TBI and identifies treatments that will improve lives.

And programs available at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) help families to better care for their members who suffer from a TBI.

Second, poison control centers offer successful and cost-effective services to Americans at risk of being poisoned. Accidental poisoning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death in the US.

H.R. 3527, the Poison Center Network Act provides support for 57 poison centers in the US. This funding enables centers to operate and maintain a nationwide toll free phone where Americans can call for immediate help. In addition, it supports a media campaign to inform about the dangers of poisonous substances and how to get immediate help.

The Health Subcommittee examined these bills in a legislative hearing on November 20, 2013 and favorably reported both out of the Subcommittee earlier today.

I urge all of my colleagues to support these bipartisan, commonsense pieces of legislation, and I yield the remainder of my time to \_\_\_\_\_.